

## The Teaching Philosophy: Clarifying the Foundations of our Practice

What is your teaching philosophy?  
Can you put it in writing?

A carefully written statement of why you do what you do when you teach can be extremely useful. But getting your teaching philosophy on paper can often be a daunting task.

Vexed by this problem herself, Jen Leigh (SOM), in collaboration with colleagues Joy Beatty (UM-Dearborn) and Kathy Lund Dean (Idaho State), developed an engaging activity that provides a structure and helps remove some of the anxiety associated with drafting a philosophy. Last spring Jen shared her approach at RIT's Faculty Institute of Technology and Learning (FITL) where the workshop got rave reviews. This semester, she has agreed to lead 3 discussions/workshops here at Nazareth.

Save the dates...reminder flyers will be sent prior to each workshop requesting an RSVP.

**Sponsored by Center for Teaching Excellence**

**Explorations on the Teaching Philosophy: Opening Pandora's box.** This discussion will begin with the card sorting as a preliminary to finding one's identity as a teacher. The exercise assists participants by helping them discern between key educational philosophies and codify a personalized set of teaching and learning principals.

**October 13 from 12-1 p.m. in G351**

**Drafting your teaching philosophy and course portfolio.** This session has two main goals. First, for those who have begun drafting a statement, it will provide an opportunity to reflect on and discuss what they have discovered about themselves (and their teaching). The second goal is to begin reflecting on how one's philosophy can become the starting point for a course portfolio.

**October 27 from 12-1p.m. in G351**

**Philosophy into Practice. How does your philosophy relate to your syllabus and the learning outcomes you have selected for each course?** In this final session, participants will reflect on and discuss the integration of their teaching philosophy into their courses, the connections it fosters, the challenges this presents, as well as where and how to reveal your philosophy to your students.

**December 14 from 12-1 p.m. in G351**